(vii) leasing-in and leasing-out of land will be permitted within the ceiling limits,

(viii) preference to women in the distribution of ceiling surplus land and legal provision for protecting their rights on land.

(d) Does not arise.

Delay in sanction of district Rehabilitation Centres

1369. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Planning Commission is delaying the sanction of District Rehabilitation Centres as proposed by Welfare Ministry;

(b) the reasons for this delay;

(c) whether any discussions have been held with concerned social workers in the DRC issues by the Planning Commission; and

(d) if so, the details of such discussions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No specific discussions were held with the concerned social workers in the DRC issues by the Planning Commission. However. One Dr. Pulla Rao from West Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh held discussions with the Officials of the Planning Commission wherein he suggested a model for establishing rehabilitation services at the district level, based on community contribution and participation. In fact, the strategy for rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities proposed in the Ninth Plan is also broadly in conformity with this very same approach.

Details of Pending Projects

1370. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number and details of projects and schemes are pending with the Central Government for the clearance; and

(b) the present status of each of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK):

(a) and (b) Schemes/Projects submitted in the Annual Plans of the States are finalised in consultation with the State Governments during the Annual Plan discussions in the Planning Commission. The approval of Planning Commission is also required for Irrigation and Power projects from investment angle. No power generation projects recommended by Ministry of Power and no irrigation projects are pending clearance in the Planning Commission.

Eradication of Poverty

1371.SHRI SATISHCHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN:Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken fresh initiatives for reorientation of Indian food security system towards elimination of hunger and its consequences ensuring significant change in percentage of population below poverty line;

(b) if so, the details of steps already taken and proposed in this regard in immediate future to eradicate poverty and provide access to food for nearly 300 million Indian below poverty line;

(c) the details of steps taken/proposed for sustainable development of poors and enable them to participate effectively in the development process; and

(d) the details of financial assistance provided to the states during the last five years and Maharashtra in particular?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) A Special Action Plan (SAP) has been prepared by the Government for doubling food production and making India hunger free in 10 years. The agriculture development strategy envisaged in the SAP has been consciously interwoven with the country's food security concern. The SAP defines the scope of food production (to include not only foodgrains i.e. rice, wheat, coarse cereals and pulses but also all major food items including edible oils, sugar, fruits and vegetables, livestock products like milk, egg and meat and fish) and spells out detailed strategy and specific programme to increase the supply of various food items in such a way that the demand for these items for the entire population is comfortably met and some exportable surplus also become available. A three pronged strategy, namely, (i) increase in overall employment/income by raising farm productivity; (ii) provision of gainful supplementary employment through poverty alleviation schemes such as Jawahar Rojgar Yojana (JRY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS); and (iii) distribution of foodgrains through PDS at concessional prices to the poor has been chalked out to increase the purchasing power of the poor to enable them to have access to basic food items. This strategy is expected to bring about significant reduction in percentage of population below the poverty line.

(c) For sustainable development of poors and their effective participation in the development process the steps being taken are: (i) Giving priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty; (ii) Accelerating the growth rate of economy with stable prices; (iii) Ensuring food and nutritional security for all, particularly the vulnerable sections of society; (iv) Providing the basic minimum services of safe drinking water, shelter, and connectivity to all in a time bound manner, (v) Containing the growth rate of population; (vi) Ensuring environmental sustainability of the development process through social mobilisation and participation of people at all levels; (vii) Empowerment of women and socially disadvantaged groups such as Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes and Minorities as agents of socio-economic change and development; (viii) Promoting and developing people's participatory institutions like Panchayati Raj institutions, cooperatives and self-help groups; (ix) Strenthening efforts to build self-reliance.

(d) Enclosed. (*See Appendix 185, Annexure No. 39.*)

Special Plan for people below Poverty Line

1372. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have evolved any special plan for the development of those States where the people are living below the poverty line;

(b) if so, what is the percentage of such people, Statewise;

(c) what is the number of such people in Himachal Pradesh, district-wise; and